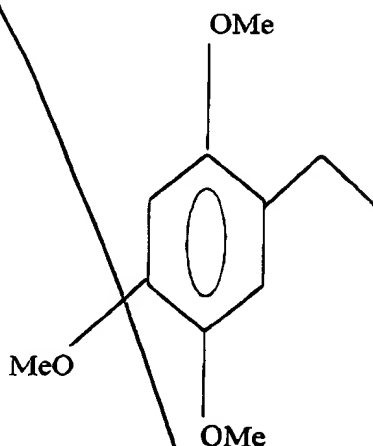


U 012930-9

We claim:

1. A process for the preparation of 1-Propyl-2, 4, 5-trimethoxybenzene of the formula I useful as a aroma molecule and as a starting material and intermediate for preparation of various drugs,



the said process comprising the steps of

- (a) providing crude calamus oil or β -asarone in a solvent selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, THF, DCM, toluene, and chloroform;
 - (b) hydrogenation of the solution in the presence of a catalyst selected from the group consisting of Pd/C, Pt, Pd(OH)₂, Raney nickel and ammonium formate at a pressure in the range of 10 - 40 psi hydrogen gas and at a temperature in the range of 15 - 40°C;
 - (c) filtering the catalyst and removing the solvent under reduced pressure in the range of 10 - 100 mm Hg;
 - (d) subjecting the reduced calamus oil to column of silica gel chromatography using an eluent to obtain the desired product in liquid form with 85 - 97 % purity.
2. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the catalyst comprises 5 - 10 % Pd/C.
 3. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the calamus oil used is of tetraploid or hexaploid origin.
 4. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the toxicity of the hydrogenated calamus oil is two times less than that of the starting calamus oil.
 5. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the reduced calamus oil has a novel honey and roses aroma.
 6. A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the 1-Propyl-2,4,5-trimethoxybenzene obtained has a novel sweet, ylang, slightly spicy and fruity aroma.

